



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 4, 1999

H.R. 439

Paperwork Elimination Act of 1999

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Small Business on February 3, 1999

CBO estimates that enacting this bill would not significantly increase costs to the federal government. Because the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 439 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 439 would build on the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Specifically, the bill would encourage federal agencies to use electronic information technologies to reduce the burden on individuals and businesses that disclose information to or contract with the federal government. In addition, the bill would designate the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as the agency responsible for promoting and monitoring the use of these technologies.

The bill, however, would not require agencies to acquire and implement new information technologies, and the authority to use these technologies already exists. OMB would incur administrative costs to direct and oversee government-wide activities involving the use of alternative information technologies; we estimate that such additional costs would not be significant. Consequently, we estimate that H.R. 439 would not significantly increase costs to the federal government.

The CBO staff contact is John R. Righter. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.